



Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

August 4, 2011

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65)

Dear Commissioners:

As mayor of a city of nearly 30,000 in central Indiana, I am very concerned with the effects of high unemployment and slow growth on our residents and those in the surrounding area. In addition to initiating many local efforts to create jobs and encourage business expansion, I have made it a key objective to give enthusiastic support to federal and state government actions that help to drive economic development and job growth – for example, providing incentives for investment of private capital to upgrade our country's technological infrastructure.

Expansion of communications facilities is a key subset of this sort of infrastructure upgrade. It provides jobs for individuals and helps put in place the technological framework our country will need to thrive in the 21st century. In addition, improved communications networks help businesses to operate more effectively and compete in the global economy. They give enterprises of all sizes incentives to innovate and invest, which drives further job growth. Increased availability of next-generation communications also yields other benefits, including enhancement of public services – such as education and health care – and helping individual citizens to lead more productive and rewarding lives.

The Commission now has before it, in the above reference matter, an opportunity to take action that will spur the sort of economic and social benefits I describe. The merger of AT&T and T-Mobile would improve performance of the companies' consolidated wireless networks; it would also be a catalyst for greatly expanded capital spending to fund, over a seven-year period, accelerated deployment of new network capacity to support next-generation broadband wireless. In addition to creating as many as 96,000 jobs, the build-out would significantly increase network coverage, making AT&T/T-

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Mobile capable of offering broadband service to 97 percent of Americans, compared with a pre-merger plan of only 80 percent.

I am convinced that increased availability of 4G wireless coverage will encourage local businesses to invest, expand, and hire. It will also greatly improve the on-line experience for Marion residents. I ask the Commission to avoid delay in reviewing and approving this application so that Hoosiers and all Americans can begin as soon as possible to enjoy the benefits of near-universal availability of high-speed wireless services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Seybold".

Wayne Seybold
Mayor
City of Marion
301 South Branson Street
Second Floor
Marion, Indiana 46952

CC:
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell